

near the larva. It was collected and reared solely on leaves of Field Bindweed until full-grown. The larva was identified by Gerry Haggett from colour photographs sent to him. The final instar was of the green form with a distinctive orange lateral stripe.

The ability of the Nutmeg to feed on Field Bindweed may help to explain its often considerable abundance in gardens and other disturbed places, including my own garden, where Field Bindweed is often more frequent than members of the unrelated *Chenopodiaceae*.

These results were obtained during a field meeting of the British Entomological and Natural History Society organised as part of a national study of the Four-spotted moth underway at Writtle College, Essex, with part-funding from English Nature and assistance from Butterfly Conservation's Cambridgeshire & Essex Branch. The author would like to thank these organisations for their support in conducting this work and preparing this report, Gerry Haggett for identifying the larva, and those that joined the author for a most enjoyable field meeting.— PAUL WARING, Reader, Writtle College. Correspondence address: Windmill View, 1366 Lincoln Road, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 6LS (E-mail: paul\_waring@btinternet.com).

### **Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli* Butler (Lep.: Lycaenidae) on the Riviera**

The range expansion of the Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli* in Europe has been a recurrent theme in this journal in recent years, but what struck the author of this note on a visit to the Riviera in late July 2003, was the sheer abundance of this species. I discovered that even in the most built-up parts of Nice, *C. marshalli* could be seen flying at tree-top height along the streets, defying the traffic, where no other butterfly species was present. While it was possible in suburbs such as Cimiez, with its mansions and large gardens, to see Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*, Small White *Pieris rapae*, Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus* and Painted Lady *Cynthia cardui* during the last week in July, *C. marshalli* was more numerous than all of these species added together. A day-trip across the Italian border to visit the Hanbury Gardens, at Cape Mortola near Ventimiglia, revealed that here too, *marshalli* was the most abundant species by far. By contrast, a few days later, *marshalli* proved to be present at around 1000 metres altitude in the Alpes Maritimes, in the valley of the Vesubie river, but here only one female individual was seen, in the grounds of the Hotel Le Boreon. The butterfly appeared to be investigating the cultivated geraniums with which the Hotel was festooned.— MARTIN J. WHITE, 58 Victoria Quay, Maritime Quarter, Swansea SA1 3XG.

### **The origin of the name *Ludius* (Col.: Elateridae): a correction**

In a recent contribution to the generic names of the British click beetles, I over-hastily treated the name *Ludius* as an 'invented' name. In fact, as I have since ascertained, *Ludius* was the term used for a player in the public games in ancient Rome (Latin *Ludo* = I play). Berthold, the author of the name, doubtless had in mind the leaping powers of click beetles though in this case, owing to the insect's size, rarity and retiring (largely nocturnal) habits, they are normally very little in evidence.— A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.